

Femmes D'Esprit



SPRING
2015

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Photo of Claudia Benitez at
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EDITORS LETTER

Michelle Goyke, '16

Dearest Readers,

It is quite amazing that we are concluding yet another academic year. This year in particular has been quite eventful for me as the honors program has given me the opportunity to travel across our nation. This past fall, I had the experience of a lifetime as I sailed in the Pacific Ocean and explored the coasts of Louisiana and California with the *Williams-Mystic Maritime Studies Program*. This spring, my exploration continued to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania as I presented at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference with fellow honors students, **Katy Baudendistel** and **Claudia Benitez**.

After having such an eventful junior year, I am so excited to see what senior year has to offer. One thing that I can say for sure is that I am ready to take on any opportunity that comes my way. As this year rapidly comes to an end, it is so hard to believe that it is also time to say goodbye to our graduating seniors. After sharing many memories and ideas with each of you, it is difficult to imagine that you will no longer be around. No matter where this next stage of life takes you, I wish you the best of luck and hope that you each remember all that CNR has taught you. For those of us not graduating yet, I hope this summer is inspiring and full of life-lessons and opportunities.

Best wishes,
Michelle Goyke



HONORS MATTERS: TRANSLATING GRADUATION

Dr. Amy Bass, Honors Program Director

Honors Matters: the Act of Graduation

O original não é fiel à tradução.

The original is unfaithful to the translation.

- Jorge Luis Borges

Lena. Lee-Anne. Symone. Miranda. Holly. Rasha. Manuela. Shacelles. What, I ask, will your legacy be? We have one answer to that question already: you have chosen a book for next fall's incoming Honors cohort to read. It is a wonderful book. It is part of your legacy. What will those students think of it? What will they think of you? How will your years in the Honors Program at The College of New Rochelle be translated by others?

In the field of what we loosely call "memory studies," Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges is a foundational voice. His fantastical short story, "Funes el memorioso" (Funes, His Memory), first published in 1942, tells the story of Ireneo Funes, a teenager from Uruguay with "perfect memory." While on the surface it would seem that Funes is gifted, it quickly becomes apparent that in remembering countless details, he is unable to create abstraction, and therefore meaning, from any of it. By forgetting nothing, Funes cannot determine the worth of anything he has remembered.

For Funes, memory replaces living – it becomes a substitute for the here and now because by forgetting nothing, there are no moments left in a day to

create significance for what has transpired. For Borges, then, Funes' perfect memory is not a gift; it is a death sentence.

The story of Funes sits well within Borges' considerable oeuvre, alongside pieces such as "The Library of Babel" and "The Secret Miracle." But these works of fiction often overshadow his work as a translator, a vocation that he took seriously and, indeed, felt to be inextricably connected to his original pieces. Throughout his career, Borges translated the work of writers such as Oscar Wilde, Edgar Allan Poe, Franz Kafka, Rudyard Kipling, Herman Melville, William Faulkner, Virginia Wolfe, and Walt Whitman. The art of translation, for Borges, enhanced and informed his fictional works, because his audacious perspective on translation was that it could *improve* the original: the same work could have multiple translations, and such contradiction improved any given piece. Rather than a translation being wrong, for Borges, the original could be unfaithful to the translation.

Think of that: giving weight to the authenticity of the translation – the representation of the original – over that of the original itself. It is an interpretation of translation that denies au-



thenticity, enabling translation not only to be a creative process, but to achieve greater significance and authority than the original.

Much of college is about translation: the translation of facts, figures, concepts, topics, subjects, methodologies, and so on. Professors translate ideas to students in the form of syllabi, readings, lectures, films, and discussions. Students translate ideas to one another in the classroom, in the residence halls, at lunch. Students translate ideas back to professors in the form of papers, exams, and questions. And, in the best moments of teaching, professors get to see how the translations are, indeed, not just better than the original, but more important.

To understand the process of learning as a process of translation is, in a way, to let go: professors release ideas every day, and students return them, changed. It is for all sides to understand and accept how this works, and it is a daring endeavor for all who engage. Does it always have good results? Absolutely not: we are not naïve to think that learning is a done deal – but that is not to say that it does not continue when one becomes lost in translation, because when we are lost, we must learn how to figure things out again, to find our way.

Which brings us back to graduation, which is interpreted as being an end and a beginning, a closing and an opening, a time of joy and a time of sadness. You all are not just *leaving*, you are *going*: to jobs, to graduate school, to

new homes, to familiar faces, to new adventures. But as all of this transpires in the course of a few hours on the stage of the Beacon Theater in Manhattan, what you should know is that you will still be here at The College of New Rochelle. You will be remembered, and in many ways, those memories will take on an authenticity even more important than your actual days here, because while you may go, we will continue to translate your legacy, forgetting some details in order to make room for others, and finding significance in all of it.



A FOND FAREWELL: FINAL WORDS FROM SOME OF OUR GRADUATES



Lee-Ann Daley

Biology

My years in the Honors Program have taught me so many things that I would not have been able to learn otherwise. I have gained many fond memories and taken many courses that have enlightened me. The Honors Program allowed me to take classes that I was legitimately interested in and not required for my major. I was also able to have many discussions and attend lectures that will stay with me in the future. These past four years allowed me to find many friends and form connections that I will treasure in the future. the world awaits you!

Favorite Course: “American Princess, Once Upon a Time” with Dr. Bass

Favorite Roommate: Lena Fin

Favorite Field Trip: Seeing *Cinderella* on Broadway for “American Princess”

Favorite Moment: Staging *A Christmas Carol* in Leland Castle for my Honors seminar called “December in America”



Lena Fin
Art Education

As a graduating senior, I can say that the last four years have been full of many eye-opening experiences and being a part of Honors has enriched my life at CNR in a most positive way. I have been a part of courses that simply aren't offered anywhere else, such as *December in America*, which examined the cultural ties of tradition or *American Singer Songwriter*, where I was a part of many discussions about music, and even tried songwriting as well as performing songs. The Honors Program has given me an opportunity to show my artwork in *Femmes D'Esprit* as well as provided a supportive community all around me. I have met many amazing people during my time living on campus and participating in various events organized by the program.



Favorite Course: “Topics in Identity: Race & Ethnicity”
with Dr. Bass

Favorite Roommate: LeeAnne Daley

Favorite Field Trip: Visiting Washington Irving’s house, Sunnyside, for “December in America” with Dr. Bass

Favorite Moment: Making breakfast in the Ursula kitchen during Dr. Zimmer’s writing seminar (she bought supplies, we cooked, and then had class discussion in the LLC living room).

Symone White
*Psychology/Women's
Studies*

Participating in the Honors Program has been an enlightening experience. I have broadened my horizons and learned a lot of material which was unrelated to anything I learned in high school because of Honors classes. For instance, I never knew Halloween started as a new year's festival. Also, the opportunities for public speaking the program provided helped me grow as a person. They helped me begin to conquer my fear of public speaking.



Manuela Patiño
Chemistry

Participating in the Honors Program has been a privilege. Dr. Bass gave me the opportunity to attend Williams Mystic, a maritime studies program, last year. The interdisciplinary program was the peak of my college career because it provided me with skills outside and inside the classroom. I was also provided with the chance to travel around the United States and learn about the ocean from different perspectives. The Honors classes that I took at CNR also shaped me as a student; it developed my ability to think abstractly, as well analytically and it taught me about working independently. I will miss the community that we built as a class, and I wish my fellow seniors the best on their future endeavors.

Rashaa Parker
*Psychology/
Women's Studies*

Being invited into Honors my sophomore year was the turning point in my academic career. Before entering into the Program, I was attending classes and doing well but not really experiencing growth or truly engaging in the concepts that were presented to me in my classes. My academic goal was simply to achieve high scores and maintain a high GPA. Sophomore year, my goal shifted and I can only attribute that to Honors. Being a senior now, I can really appreciate the fact that being in the Program opened up opportunities that I probably would have never experienced in college. In Dr. Bass's seminar "December in America" I was learning about holidays, while in "American Princess" I could explore the way Disney has affected girl culture. In "American Anxiety" with Daniel Smith, I discovered that every one of my classmates was feeling some sort of anxiety just like the rest of the country—but we had the opportunity to discuss it with a *New York Times* bestselling author! In a nutshell: my classes were awesome! Even better? Outside the classroom, Honors didn't cease to exist. Trips to Broadway, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Eugenics Records Office exhibit were all activities that brought the concepts we had been discussing in class to life. Also, all the hard work and time we spent in class was not contained in the Honors center, but was shared with the rest of the CNR community. Honors Day Conference allowed us to share what we had been doing all semester and get feedback from professors and peers on our topics. Seeing my own work as well as my classmates' come together and be praised was a rewarding perk that gave me a sense of pride to be a part of the Honors Program. Now that I'm graduating, it will be bittersweet to leave the honors program but, I will leave feeling satisfied with my CNR experience. I was able to meet really fabulous people, expand my understanding of the world and myself, and provide advice to underclassmen embarking on the same journey that I and the privilege of experiencing. I know that being a part of the honors program is different for everyone, which is the great thing about it, but all of us will graduate with the same feelings of utter accomplishment and the ability to succeed in whatever challenge life presents next.



Favorite Course: "American Anxiety" with Daniel Smith

Favorite Field Trip: Seeing *Cinderella* on Broadway for "American Princess"

Favorite Moment: Honors Conference Day



Holly Bogardus
Communication Arts

My time at CNR has been hectic, to say the least. I came in as a psychology major, but I took electives ranging from education to sociology. I eventually found my home as a Communication Arts student. I fell in love with the film classes, which provided a perfect outlet to combine my artistic and scholarly endeavors.

It was as a Junior I was invited into Honors. It was something I had not expected, especially as my grades filled a wide range. However, Honors forced me to do something I had felt unmotivated to do: apply myself. It was easy to be enthusiastic in classes I chose and enjoyed. It was another issue entirely to do so in a class that I had deemed only a “requirement”.

The first Honors course I took was *American Anxiety* with Daniel Smith. While slightly dubious, I was excited for the class for both a.) it being with an English professor (my second choice for a major) and b.) my own unfailing anxiety problems, which I believed would fit only so appropriately within the context of the class. Professor Smith’s course made me read a multitude of books I otherwise doubt I would have come across, and made me a huge Don DeLillo fan, and gave me the opportunity to see my first off-Broadway production, *Little Miss Sunshine*. Looking back, I’m sure Professor Smith doubts my reading of any of the assigned books, as I never once offered my opinion during a discussion. However, after each class I was quick to discuss (although sometimes just rant and rave) the day’s discourse with my dear friend Ashley. This was the greatest joy of the class: it was the first time I had peers to discuss academics with outside of class. There was always something somewhat thrilling about debating class topics while going for a walk or eating lunch. It was the type of cliché that conformed to my middle school ideas of what college was suppose to be. It wasn’t until it happened however that I realized just how important that kind of discourse really was.

One of the things I am most grateful to Honors for is the opportunity to work with Dr. Segura-Rico. *Discourses of Slavery in the Americas* was a class I never would have taken if left to my own devices, but I am very glad I did. The class gave me the opportunity to research the portrayal of slaves in film, and a final project that really helped me realize my love of film analysis.

Socially, some of my closest friends came from Honors. I met Alicia my first year, and while our very different schedules kept us mostly apart for two years, we reunited in *American Anxiety* and became roommates our senior year. Alicia is undoubtedly one of the most important people I met within the program. For an entire semester as roommates we would

accidentally stay up until 2a.m, discussing the morality of in vitro fertilization, the portrayal of minorities in film, why George Carver was able to invent every possible use for peanuts except the best one, and other important life questions.

One of my most valued Honors memories took place during finals week of my junior year. Living in New Hampshire, I have to store and pack my belongings long before the day I take an 8-hour Amtrak adventure home. However, that never QUITE stops me from procrastinating and haphazardly finishing off the night before I leave. During this time I lived in Ursula, which is commonly known as my least favorite dorm, but admittedly had the benefit of the Honors wing. In the midst of my packing, I ran into Surya in the hallway. Going home to Jamaica she, too, was in a frantic stage of last minute packing. Both deciding to take a break, we headed to the lounge, hooked up Surya's laptop to the TV (a difficult feat for all those who know the TV jacks in Ursula), and began *Soul Eater*, an anime series.

In hopes of continuing to be "productive", I decided this to be a good opportunity to wipe out my food supplies. What we had intended to be an hour of TV turned into a much more significant event. We started off with a course of appetizers: pretzels, chips, dip, peanut butter crackers, and popcorn. Slowly we moved into the lounge, bringing blankets, pillows, stuffed animals, everything to make the lounge feel like our rooms. We moved on to phase two of eating: we made tuna, soup, pudding, and spent what felt like days waiting for our Jello to gain its gelatinous form in the refrigerator. Ashley came for (what Surya and I considered "brief") a three-hour stay until she went back to her ever-daunting final paper. Surya and I went into the lounge around 3p.m that day and we stayed until 4a.m. the next morning. We watched almost half the series, ate more food than either of us had ever imagined, and promised each other we would finish the series over the summer together.

Food aside: joining the Honors Program inspired me to really apply myself academically. It helped me focus and decide what path I wanted to take here at CNR. I met people from all over the world due to the Program, and made life long connections that I wouldn't trade for anything. At the end of the day I would just like to thank Dr. Bass and Dr. Quinn for their encouragement and belief in me. And my advice to incoming students is simply this: do work that gives you joy and be humble.



Shacelles Bonner
*Biology/Pre-Med/
Chemistry*



My four years in the Honors Program have helped to shape me into who I am today. My experiences here have been remarkable and the friendships I've made will last a lifetime. My advice to those who come after me is to jump at every opportunity that is presented to you. There are so many amazing opportunities at the college and in this program and my wish is for you all to utilize them and have a fulfilling 4 years here.

To the incoming Freshies, I truly wish I could have met you all. You have been selected to join this program because you are seen as students that excel both in and out of the classroom. I will not say the next four years will be easy but do not ever underestimate your abilities and your worth. Become close to your fellow Honors students (especially those in your year) because they will help shape your time here. These four years will help contribute to the adult you are meant to be, so yes it will be stressful but also very fun.

To my fellow seniors and closest friends, WE DID IT! I remember meeting you all for the first time and it is nice to see how our relationship has matured and grown since then. Like those before us, we formed a bond that can never be broken. We have shared experiences that no one else has. You all are my confidants and have helped to keep me focus during our time here. I will honestly miss you girls so much! The most difficult part of my senior year was living in Angela and away from the Honors Wing, imagine when we are no longer walking distance. I cannot wait to see what life has in store for you all because I know that every single one of you is destined for greatness.

And finally, to my Professors, thank you for your guidance. Because of you continuously challenging me, I have learned to push my limits. You have taught me that there is always something to improve and that networking is vital. You have helped to propel me to the next step in my life and for that I am grateful. To everyone in the Honors Program and the CNR Community, Thank You. I can honestly say, being at this College has allowed me to experience various viewpoints and environments that I would not have otherwise.

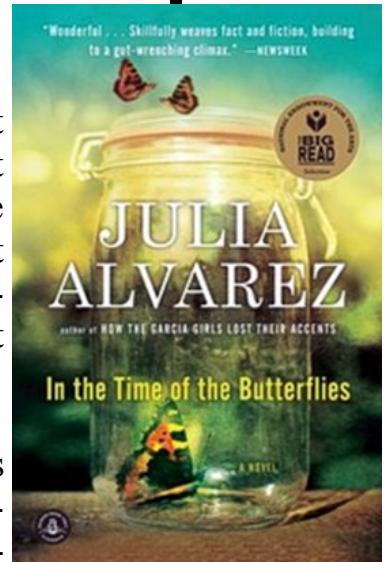
A FOND FAREWELL: A LETTER TO THE CLASS OF 2019

To the Honors Class of 2019,

As you begin your journey in the Honors Program, we thought we would start you off with a book that would give you the first stepping stone on the path of the Honors experience. We have chosen a book that not only showcases female empowerment and diversity but also provides the tools you will need throughout your college career that will teach you how to think without teaching you what to think.

In the Time of the Butterflies, written by Julia Alvarez, explores themes such as positive female relationships, political oppression, cultural diversity and social hierarchy. Through their involvement in the revolution and assertion of their beliefs, the Mirabal sisters inspired their Dominican nation. We hope that you will identify with the strengths of each character as well as be able to sympathize with and learn from their weaknesses. We chose this particular novel because we thought it would relate to the diversity represented in the first-year class and the issues that affect various cultures. The book proved to be interdisciplinary, challenging, and captivating.

We hope that you will enjoy this book and that it will be an inspiration for your first semester here at CNR. Embarking on the college experience may seem daunting; however we hope that this book will prove to be a resource throughout your time here.



With warm regards,
The Honors Class
of 2015



Four of the members of Senior Symposium at Honors Conference Day discussing book choices for the Class of 2019.

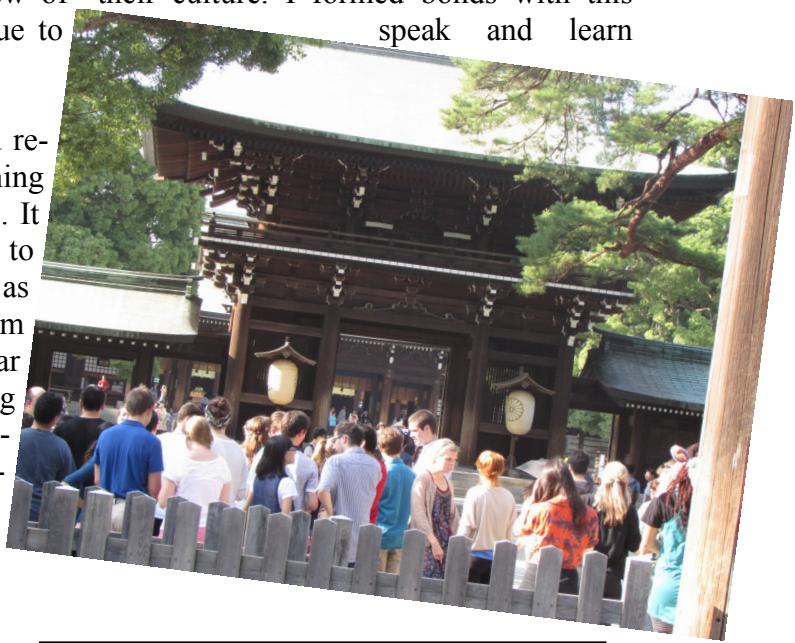
HONORS ABROAD: A SUMMER IN JAPAN

Amanda Hernandez, '16

This past summer in the semester of 2014, I finally achieved one of my biggest goals in life. With the aid of many wonderful programs such as the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program and the Russel-Taylor Foundation scholarship at CNR, I gained incredible experiences during my study abroad in Japan. Not only did I fulfill a dream, I learned so much more than I could have if I merely visited the country. It was truly an experience that I will never forget and when I came back, I wouldn't let others forget either.

Whilst in Japan, my schedule was packed with experiences and new things to learn every single day. Some of the things we did were amongst the most fun and educating experiences that I ever had. This included staying at a Roshokan, a traditional Japanese Hotel, where we learned the history of Japanese hospitality, architecture and cuisine. We visited many temples and shrines such as the Meiji Jingu where we were informed of Japanese traditional belief systems and customs of reverence. Amongst trips and extracurricular activities that we attended, we studied hard in our classes and lived with homestay families, which I personally felt was the most heartfelt and unique part of my study abroad. Although my classes applied to my major and fulfilled my foreign language credit, the aspects I felt that reflected my own personal goals were fulfilled in the home of a loving Japanese family. This unique experience showed me the true nature of Japanese life in the subtle ways that they interacted with each other and me, how they dealt with their everyday life, the things they watched on television, their customs, etc. Seeing this erased all prior assumptions of modern Japanese life and replaced the image with a clearer and more realistic view of their culture. I formed bonds with this family within 3 months and I continue to speak and learn from them even now.

The whole experience made me dread returning to America despite the looming inevitability of that return-flight home. It made me think of the various ways to come back to Japan in the future such as the opportunity to join another program or school. Of course, that will be far along and I will have to manage being separated again from my dream, however, I remedied this by bringing portions of my dream back with me to show the many others whom I wished to share it with.



Above: One of the gates at the Meiji Shrine, taken on July 30th 2014.

Opposite: My homestay sisters celebrating my birthday, August 4th, 2014.

Throughout my trip, I kept a log of things that I did, experiences that I had and things that I have learned through writing and a vast amount of photos. Because my study abroad was filled with events and classes, it was difficult to write most of the time however I always kept my camera handy and ready to snap the amazing things I saw. Logging my experience one way or another was one of my main goals whilst staying in Japan and contributed to anything and everything that I proposed to do in my multiple follow-on service projects.

As proposed in my follow up services I promised my scholarship committees, I participated in many talks with my peers in Honors society and CNR Anime Club about my trip and described my many experiences. Anime club benefitted greatly from my experience due to the display of immense time and effort into the study of Japanese culture through art forms and storytelling. To my members, I have presented them with information promoting Study Abroad and the various ways that they could be assisted through programs such as the Gilman International Scholarship and I have inspired many of them to speak to our study abroad advisor on campus.



My study abroad in Japan was truly everything I ever expected out of a study abroad experience and more. Because of programs such as CNR study abroad, CIEE and the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program, my dream came true and contributed more to my life than I could ever replace with another experience. Not only did it show me the various ways in which people lived, but it displayed the many ways that people can love and form bonds that could last a lifetime. It showed me that dreams do come true and the fulfillment of one's dream can only beget more dreams. Because of this experience, I have absolute confidence that my future dreams can be achieved. Even better yet, I know that others' dreams can be fulfilled through hard work and dedication in obtaining one's goal in life and fighting for the experiences of a lifetime such as studying abroad.

EVENT: AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR NICOLE C. KEAR

Memoirist and popular blogger Nicole C. Kear spoke before a packed audience at Romita Auditorium on Tuesday, March 26 for the annual Elvira M. Dowell '36 Lecture, an event endowed by Dr. George B. Dowell in memory of his sister, a graduate of the School of Arts & Sciences. Students, faculty, and members of the community listened to Kear, who was diagnosed with a degenerative retinal disorder at the age of 19, discuss the stages of denial and acceptance that she went through as she slowly lost her vision.

SAS Honors students had the opportunity to have dinner with Kear before the talk, engaging in a lively conversation about disability, parenthood, and identity. After the talk, they were able to purchase her book, *Now I See You*, and have her sign their copies.



HONORS AT THE NRHC: PERSPECTIVE OF A FIRST TIMER

Claudia Benitez, '16

One of the most rewarding things about being a part of the Honors Program is the opportunity to present our research at the NRHC conference. This year was my first time I was ecstatic! In junior colloquium, I chose to look at education and found the Common Core a very interesting topic.. Even better, it fit perfectly within the conference theme of “Battlegrounds”.

Our first full day of the conference, we participated in Place is Text, exploring downtown Gettysburg. We started by stopping at local stores; the people were very friendly and offered us great advice on museums and places we could explore, such as the train station, where we got to walk on the tracks where Lincoln arrived to give his famous speech in 1863. Another highlight was the David Wills House, where Lincoln slept the night before his speech. On Saturday, Katy and Michelle both had their paper presentations. We separated for the morning as we sat in presentations with themes like immigration, violence, technology and education. It was awesome to be able to hear other Honors students show their work and represent different points of view on many subjects. Sunday Morning was time for me to present “The Battle of Education: The New York Common Core Education System and E.L.L. Students.” I was really excited and was glad I was able explain my thesis.

This was an amazing conference, I learned so much from my peers and fellow Honors Program members. I also got to visit historic sites with some of my best friends and present my research! So I would totally consider this one of the best memories of my college career!

HONORS AT THE NRHC: CONFESSIONS OF A CONFERENCE JUNKIE

Katy Baudendistel, '16

I'm what some people may call a conference junkie. It felt natural getting behind the wheel again, off for another long car ride with my best friends for one of our favorite past times. I have attended conferences with both Michelle and Claudia before, but this time we all were able to attend together. This has been my 3rd Honors conference and 6th conference overall that I have presented at. For an undergraduate junior, I've realized that this is not common. I am drawn to the excitement that fills conferences and the passion my peers have for their research. I am eternally grateful for the opportunities I have at the college and the experiences that I've had through the Honors Program.

Inspired by my recent study abroad in South Africa, I have focused my junior colloquium paper and this conference paper on sex workers and HIV in South Africa. My paper was titled "HIV in South Africa: The Battle to Decriminalize Sex Work". My panel was called "Health Policies, Taboos, and the Law." In my work, I discuss how sex workers are faced with discrimination, violence, and increased risk for contracting HIV. My topic ignited conversation in the audience, as it is quite a taboo to consider sex work a respected profession. This was my first time presenting a paper at this conference and I felt quite a bit of pressure, especially with the taboos and strong feelings that surround this sensitive topic. Fortunately, once I started, I felt confident and eager to continue sharing my research that I've been working on for the past semester.



The best part of the conference was Friday, "Place as Text." My fellow honors student, Claudia, and I took advantage of the flexibility we were given to explore downtown Gettysburg. We drove into the town of Gettysburg and visited little shops, The David Wills House, the train station, and so on. We also wanted to see the battlefields, so we ventured outside of the main downtown area and traveled through the fields, stopping to take pictures and admire the monuments in the national park. What a weekend!

HONORS AT THE NRHC CONFERENCE: PHOTOS!



Clockwise from left: Claudia, Michelle, & Katy at the keynote banquet; Katy and Claudia explore the historic train station; Michelle gives her paper to a packed audience; Claudia takes a "selfie" with the statue of Lincoln that graces the historic center of town, right in front of the David Wills House.



HONORS AT THE NRHC: FROM THE BATTLEFIELDS

Michelle Goyke, '16

It is no surprise that I took another opportunity to travel and explore. This time, I got to do so in the amazing company of Claudia and Katy as we drove to this year's Northeast Regional Honors Council conference in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. After making many new friends and memories that would last a lifetime, I am not afraid to say this was the best conference I have attended yet!

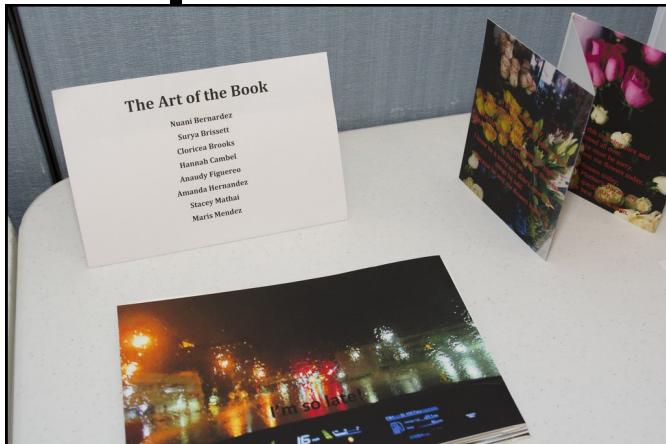
Being a very significant landmark in our nation's history, Gettysburg was a key battlefield of the Civil War. This being so, it is very appropriate that this year's conference theme was "The Battlefields of Change." Being my second time both attending and presenting at NRHC, I decided to present a research paper I did for my Honors seminar last year entitled *American Anxiety* on the "Fear of Missing Out (FoMO)." For my presentation, entitled "Communication as a Battlefield: How Social Media Sites and the Fear of Missing Out (FoMO) Are Making Us Miss Out", I requested to have a room that had an A/V so I could present a PowerPoint. On the day of the presentation, I found out that my wish was not granted and that the area where I was presenting had no projector or screen. Regardless, I did my best to improvise and used this as an example of how inconvenient it is to be technology dependent. Five minutes into my presentation, a hotel employee overheard my dilemma, slipped me a note, and hooked up my presentation to a flat screen TV. Within moments, my presentation transformed back into its virtual format and was successful.



For my Place as Text excursion, I visited the Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War. There, I saw a showing of *A New Birth of Freedom*, narrated by Morgan Freeman. This fifteen-minute film provided me with a great background of the Civil War and allowed me to recognize how Gettysburg is such a sacred ground for our nation. After the movie, I got to see the Gettysburg Cyclorama, which was an impressive painting that circled around the whole room. Above all, having the opportunity to go out into the battlefield and view the monuments had the biggest impact on me. It was in the field where I felt a historical connection that no movie can instill. I began to really understand that the Civil war was time of national weakness as we allowed strong differing views result in national division and immense bloodshed. Regardless of which side they stand, Americans are Americans and their lives are equally important.



HONORS ON DISPLAY: HONORS CONFERENCE DAY



On April 23, 2015, Honors students presented their work to the campus community at the 30th annual Honors Conference Day. Posters, presentations, and exhibits filled the room in the Sweeny Student Center, with students, faculty, and staff engaging in conversation regarding the student work.

Members of the Honors Junior Colloquium, “Catastrophe! The Course,” displayed the fruits of their labors from the two-semester reading and research sequence, while members of two seminars, “Genetics & Identity” and “Art of the Book” exhibited their work. As well, Honors contract students and those who had studied abroad made presentations. A light lunch was enjoyed by the 80 people who attended.



Ashley Hernandez, “Paying for the Perfect Christmas: How Commercialistic Traditions of an American Christmas Have Led to Catastrophe”



Holly R. Bogardus, “Shelter from the Storm: the Impacts of Hurricane Sandy on Individuals and Communities”



Manuela Patiño, “The Colonization of Latin America Explored as Catastrophe”

Good Luck Seniors!

Lena Fin.....

.....Manuela Patiño

Symone White...

Lee-Anne Daley....

Holly Bogardus...

...Rashaa Parker

.....Miranda Polat

....Shacelles Bonner